



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOST FREE BROADBAND AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Irving, Texas, September 6, 2005 – USDA Rural Development will be hosting a free Broadband Awareness Workshop on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, providing information regarding types of loans, eligibility requirements and loan application process available through the USDA Rural Development Rural Broadband Access Loan and Guarantee Program. The event will be held at the Dallas Marriot Las Colinas, 223 West Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Texas, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

“Broadband is an important tool that will enable rural communities access to educational and business opportunities,” said Bryan Daniel, State Director for USDA Rural Development.

In FY2005, USDA Rural Development had more than \$2 billion in funding available for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program to provide loans and loan guarantees for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible rural communities. Priority is given to applications proposing to serve areas where no residential broadband service currently exists.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. To register for the Broadband Awareness Workshop, please contact Tammy Kelch at Tammy.Kelch@usda.gov or call 202-690-3128. Information on the USDA Rural Development Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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